

October 1, 1999

TO: Division Directors of Testing

FROM: Neils W. Brooks, Ed.D, Director
Office of Vocational and Adult Education Services

SUBJECT: Vocational Education Requirements for Preparing the SOL End-of-Course
Test Answer Sheets

In 1992 the State Board of Education modified the academic achievement standard and performance indicators for vocational education programs until the implementation of the State Testing and Assessment Program. Further, the new federal law, Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998, requires the state and local school divisions to assess academic attainment of students in vocational programs. Virginia has defined that to be:

Students enrolled in vocational and technical courses (9-12 grades) will show continuous improvement annually toward meeting the schools accreditation requirement: 70 percent passing rate of all eligible students for each of the SOL end-of- course tests (English, Mathematics, Science, and History/Social Science).

I am requesting that you provide assistance to the Vocational Education Administrator and high school testing coordinator (s) in preparing the SOL End-of-Course Test Answer sheets. Initial data collection procedures are effective with the 1999 fall testing cycle.

Recently, the Office of Vocational and Adult Education Services conducted three Regional Perkins III Technical Assistance Workshops for local Vocational Education Administrators, Directors of Finance, and Division Directors of Testing (D-DOT). In a number of cases, the D-DOT, or their representative, did not participate. During these workshops procedures for collecting the academic data was discussed and a set of resources was disseminated.

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For your information, I have enclosed all information related to the academic achievement standard. This set of resources include the following:

- 1) Description of Performance Measure and Core Indicator
- 2) Transition and Implementation Schedule
- 3) Procedures for Preparing the SOL end-of-course test answer sheets
(Section N - Vocational Education)
- 4) Sample copy of the 1999 Fall SOL End-of-Course Test Answer
- 5) Copy of Supts Memo (No. 151 - August 6, 1999)
- 6) Checklist for Identifying State-Approved Vocational Education Courses (by
Program Service areas)
- 7) List of Definition/Terms
- 9) Contact Information

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Lolita B. Hall,
Program Improvement Specialist at 804-225-3370, or by e-mail (lbhall@pen.k12.va.us).

/jts

Enclosures

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